Coal seam gas

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19 Nov, 2010 10:28 AM

(Singleton Argus)

A CAMPAIGN to stop coal seam gas exploration in Singleton's grape growing areas has won the support of Singleton Council.

A unanimous vote to ban coal seam gas exploration and development in Singleton's grape growing areas was met with a rapturous applause at Monday's council meeting.

A packed gallery filled the chambers hoping to see council support the prohibition of coal seam gas exploration and development in the Broke, Bulga, Hermitage Road and Roughit Lane areas.

Cr Alison Howlett moved the motion to amend Singleton's Local Environment Plan (LEP) so the industry would be banned in the four designated areas.

She said an unregulated industry such as coal seam gas was a big threat, similar to what council faced with open cut mining 30-years ago.

Cr Howlett said increasing community concern prompted the move with the unknown long term effects of coal seam gas exploration and development not known.

She said noise, dust and surface water issues were striking fear into locals concerned about its potential health impacts and impacts on local tourism.

"When is enough enough," Cr Howlett said.

"We carry the economic burden of the state and these areas are the jewel in our crown," she said.

Hunter Valley Protection Alliance executive officer John Thomson used public access to address councillors on Monday night.

Mr Thomson described the coal seam gas industry as highly intrusive and said it didn't have a place in Broke, Bulga, Hermitage Road and Roughit Lane areas.

"We are asking council to make a statement and stand up for the community," Mr Thomson said.

"We have a right to say what goes on and a right to say this doesn't fit."

Council's motion follows a forum held earlier this month at Broke between community, environmental and industry representatives.

A committee was formed from the meeting with members now working on a public event to launch a national campaign demanding action from the government on coal seam gas and coal mining.